



American Review of Eastern Orthodoxy

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MONTHLY



NEWS

FEATURE STORY

THE STATE DEPARTMENT vs BORIS

A chain of diplomatic jockeying over the inter-change of clergy between U.S.A. and the Soviet has been going on for over a year. It commenced with the refusal of the State Dep't. to renew the visa of one Archbishop Boris, after its expiration on February 28th, 1955. The underlying origin runs deeper, however.

Under the Roosevelt-Litvinov agreement of 1933, the American diplomatic colony in Moscow was to be granted permission to worship in its own way and with clergymen of its own choice. In pursuance of this, a Roman priest had been maintained in Moscow for that purpose. With the cancellation of the visa of Boris, who was Moscow's official representative (Exarch) to the American branch of the Patriarchal Russian Church, the visa of the Roman priest was also cancelled. This angered the State Dep't., but they finally offered a compromise last June. They requested that the Litvinov agreement be made reciprocal. Moscow agreed and visas were again exchanged and everyone was happy.

Suddenly the State Dep't. realized that Boris would be coming as Exarch of the entire branch of the Church, and not just for the Russian diplomatic corps; whereas the Roman priest in Moscow would only be

serving the American diplomatic colony. The State Dep't. hurriedly cancelled the visa again of Boris, demanding that he come only as a clergyman, and not as an administrator. The Russians refused this and the stalemate continued.

Former Ambassador to Russia, George F. Kennan had expressed himself publicly on the State Dep't.'s handling of the affair. He questioned seriously whether this action was in our best national interests, particularly because it placed in jeopardy the Roosevelt-Litvinov agreement. The New York Times, in an editorial, opined that the State Dep't. had ventured onto a very dubious ground indeed, both diplomatically and ecclesiastically.

For Americans it posed questions:

- i. Is the State Dep't. setting a pattern for interference in internal religious affairs?
- ii. Are our diplomats so poorly versed that, as reasoning beings, they cannot settle so trivial an affair? If not, then how can they ever settle major ones?
- iii. Why did the State Dep't. allow Boris to enter last year on a 60 day visa as an official Exarch and now raise such an issue?
- iv. Are we to become judges of religious leaders?

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NOTICE TO READERS -

American Review of Eastern Orthodoxy is published as a Monthly News Review. Readers are invited to send in such local or other news as they may wish. Wherever space permits, these will be used.

The publishers are commencing the AREO QUARTERLY. It will be published in a Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall series. The first issue will be released in the Winter of 1956. The subject matter will deal with articles on history, tradition, state of the Church, doctrine, dogma and many other phases of religion. Subscription prices to this Quarterly will be \$2.00 per year (50¢ additional for subscriptions outside U.S.A.)

NOTE: A combined subscription price for both the American Review of Eastern Orthodoxy (a monthly) and the AREO Quarterly is available at \$4.25 per year (\$1.50 additional for subscriptions outside U.S.A.) Present subscribers will receive both at no extra charge.

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State Dep't. vs Boris (continued) =

v. The chief objection of the State Dep't. is to Archbishop Boris serving as Exarch and administrative head of the Russian Patriarchal Church in America. Does this mean that the State Dep't. is now going to ban all foreign religious representatives who come here to serve in the capacity of a Legate or Exarch? If so, what shall be done with the Legate of the Vatican; the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; etc.?

(Ed.- If a reasonable and dispassionate answer can be found to these questions, it will certainly clear up doubts as to the future intentions of the State Dep't. in relation to their desire to exercise control over religion.)

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THEOPHANY

The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, celebrated on the 6th day of January, is also called Epiphany. This means 'Divine Manifestation'; as we know, at the Baptism, the Trinity became manifest. This is testified to by Holy Scripture.

In ancient times, catechumen baptism was common, and thus the Day also is called: 'Feast of Illumination'.

The special feature of this Feast is 'the consecration of the waters'. In all churches it occurs on the vigil, after the Liturgy or Vespers. In some churches, it is repeated on the day of the Feast, after Liturgy, in rivers and lakes (even oceans), whither the clergy go in procession, with cross and banners.

The first blessing is a reminder of the baptism which the catechumens used to receive on this day, and of the vows, which we took at our baptism.

The second blessing takes place in remembrance of the Baptism of Our Lord; hence the procession is termed as 'going to Jordan'.

After the ceremony, the officiants, carrying some of the blessed water, go to the home of each communicant and, in a brief service, bless their abode.

On Fasting: It is customary in the two week period that passes between Christmas and Epiphany, to dispense with all Fasting, even on the Wednesday and Friday of each week. This is done in honor to the Great Festival.

Note on Easter, 1956: This year, Orthodox Easter comes much later than Western observances; April 1st vs May 6th.

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AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CHURCH

ARCHBISHOP BORIS VISITS CANADA



Whilst all the bickering between the State Dep't. and the Soviet continues over his admission to the U.S.S. as the Exarch of the Patriarchal Russian Church in America, Archbishop Boris was busying himself in scurrying rapidly about Canada on a good-trip. The trip was sponsored by the United Church of Canada(Protestant).Accompanying him were Archpriest Ruzitsky and Mr. Gorbachov.

Opposition to his presence developed rapidly wherever he appeared. Spear-heading the pack, were the Baltic and Slavic Canadians, both clergy and laity, along with some of the French-Canadians. Protests by letter, in person, by pickets and by hand-bills were the order of the day.

No explanation was given by the Archbishop as to why he supplanted Metropolitan Nikoli of Krutitsky and Kolomna as head of the delegation. Nor was any reason given as to why Bishop Paladeus had not been allowed to come, as had been originally scheduled.

The invitation for the trip had been extended to them last May by the United Church of Canada. They acted as hosts and explained: 'Our plain duty is to do all we can to create understanding and to try and establish goodwill between Russia and Canada.' They denied charge made against them that they felt 'Communism and Christianity can co-exist.'

Rev. Oleg Boldyreff, rector of the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in Montreal, said flatly: 'While I bow to the commendable intentions of the authorities of the United Church, it is my duty to state.....the martyrdom of the Russian Orthodox Church will continue....'

A committee, known as 'The New Canadians of Russian Origin', declared: 'We want to warn our fellow Canadians not to accept these collaborators with the Communists as genuine representatives of the Russian Church.'

Archbishop Boris, when asked if he were a Communist, said: a Communist does not believe in God, 'while to be a member of the Russian Orthodox Church one must be a believer.' He stated he had no complaint about the system of government in Russia, because he had been brought up under those conditions and they didn't disturb him. He said that he hoped to get into the U.S., because: 'I believe in God and the devil was never stronger than I.'

The delegation extended an invitation to the United Church of Canada to send an official party to visit them in Russia. The date was set for July, 1956. Following this, the Russian group then returned to Russia to be in time for the Feast of St. Nicholas.

During their visit, one rather humorous incident intervened to throw a lighter mood over the whole party. Boarding a Trans-Canada Airliner in Ottawa for Toronto, Archbishop Boris settled himself into the seat; finding it too tight(he weighs nearly 300 lbs.), the armrest was raised and he was allowed to fill the double seat. Unfortunately, a safety-belt is made to work only on a single seat. A cargo belt was hastily rigged to hold him in place, but Boris had been watching the process with interest, but...when he raised his head, a bellow was heard thruout the plane - frightened passengers craned to see what had happened - lo, Boris' beard was caught fast in the belt. His associates leaped to his rescue, Boris maintaining a running commentary in Russian all the while. The trip was then completed without further incidents. Later, one thoughtful soul commented: 'Perhaps the belt should be padded-- Delilah.'

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GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS:

COPENHAGEN - Bishop Hans Fuglsang-Damgaard, Primate of the State Church(Danish Lutheran) headed a four man delegation that spent 3 weeks in the Soviet. They were invited there by the Russian Orthodox Church

THESSALONIKI - Rev. Michael Kyriakakis was elected moderator of the Greek Evangelical Church at the triennial meeting of its General Assembly here. The 100th anniversary of the Church will be observed in 1958, tentative plans were made for it at this triennial.

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BUENOS AIRES - Bishop Alexis Pelypenko, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South America, said that Argentine Communists were endeavoring to expand efforts at sabotage in Brazil. He stated he had a photostat of a letter to this effect.

(Ed.- In 1942, Bishop Pelypenko was a principal witness in a U.S. government trial of five Nazi agents in Hartford, Conn. He had been instrumental in their capture.)

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SAO PAULO, Brazil - Immigrants from many lands have entered here, during past years and brought a profound change in the hold of Roman Catholicism. One of the most profound changes is that shown in the National Catholic Church of Brazil, where masses are now given in Portuguese and where the priests are now permitted to marry.

(Ed.- This National Catholic Church of Brazil was formed a few years ago, when the hierarchy of its movement demanded from Rome the right to have married priests; when he was refused, the National Church was formed. This same type of movement also exists among other groups in the U.S.A.; it is known as the Polish National Catholic Church and has churches in Poland, also. One might note in passing, that Eastern Orthodoxy has always preserved the Apostolic Tradition of a married priesthood, as well as the right of each country for the development of its own liturgical language. It appears that gradually the drift is toward a return to the original usage - Orthodoxy)

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BOGOTA, Colombia - Cardinal Luque announced here that all Roman Catholic parents who send their children to the Presbyterian American School would be excommunicated. The school was established here in 1869 and educates all who wish to study within its portals.

Under a recent government order, non-Catholic schools in Colombia must teach their Catholic students Catholicism thru Catholic teachers. This school responded by stating it would only receive students registering as non-Catholics in the future.

(Ed.- This, in an enlightened age)

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BOMBAY, India - Christian Churches thruout India announced 'unceasing prayer vigil' to be maintained thruout 1956 for divine intercession in solving national and world problems. The Rev. John T. Seamands is directing the vigil, as head of the Prayer Life Movement in India.

(Ed.- 'Unceasing prayer' was a Scriptural commandment - it was used by Gandhi, also, in his passive resistance movement that won India its freedom from Britain.)

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DAMASCUS, Syria - The Ministry of Education issued an order that a course in Christianity would henceforth be taught to Christian students in both government and private schools under the guidance of a commission representing heads of various Christian bodies in Syria.

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MOSCOW - External Affairs Minister L.B. Pearson, Canada, was an extemporaneous preacher recently in a Baptist Church here. When he entered the church, he was led, without his previous knowledge, into the pulpit, where the pastor told the congregation that the visitor would preach. Mr. Pearson objected, but was persuaded to say something. He spoke on 'Blessed is the peacemaker.'

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ATHENS - A new 500,000 drachma (\$16.60) banknote has just been issued by the Greek Treasury. It bears a representation on it of the Apostle Paul preaching to the Athenians from famed Mars Hill.

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt - The belltower of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchal Church of St. Mark here may have to be rebuilt to accomodate a nine ton bell given it by Patriarch of Moscow, Alexei.

Patriarch Christopher II of Alexandria said he had received word from Patriarch Alexei that the bell was on its way. It will be larger than any now existing in Egypt.

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BETHLEHEM - The Orthodox Church of the Nativity saw the celebration of Orthodox Christmas in all its beauty and splendor. The Shrine is situated on Manger Square; but, to reach it one has to descend ancient stairs hewn from rock into a grotto, where, in the eastern wall of the cave is an altar with a star of glittering silver affixed to the floor directly beneath. This star marks the traditional position of the manger where Christ was born 2000 years ago.

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BERNE, Switzerland - Greek Ambassador Argyropoulos presented the Order of the Phoenix to three Protestant churchmen for the aid their organizations had given to Greece. The Order of the Phoenix, founded in 1926, is awarded by the King of Greece to individuals for service to his country in 'fields of humane and technical endeavors.'

Those honored at this presentation were: Rev. Raymond Maxwell, Rev. John D. Metzler, and Dr. M.R. Zigler.

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MOSCOW - Metropolitan Gregory of Leningrad and Novgorod died at the age of 86. He had been an emissary to the U.S.A. in July of 1947 in a Patriarchal effort to unify the Russian jurisdictions in America.

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BELGRADE - Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Vikentije spent two days at Skoplje, Macedonia in an effort regarded as being an attempt to end the breach existing between the Patriarchate and this branch of its jurisdiction. The crux of the grievance is the desire of the priests of the Macedonian branch to have Macedonian bishops, dropping of the word 'Serbian' from their Church name' and the right to use the Macedonian language in their Liturgics. It is not known now what will come forth from the visit.

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ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia - The Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Coptic Church voted to continue their recognition of Patriarch Anba Youssab II of Cairo, who had recently been deposed as head of the 6,000,000 Copts of the Near East. The Patriarch had been deposed by some of the Egyptian bishops, supported by the Coptic Community Council, a powerful laymen's group. The Patriarch was forced into retirement and is now 'exiled' to a desert monastery. The Coptic laymen in Egypt, supported by many clergy, have been demanding reforms in Church administration. The patriarch's resistance to this brought about the forced retirement.

The Egyptian government is faced with a problem of dissension within the Church and according to some sources in Egypt may cause the Patriarch to be restored.

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ALEXANDRIA - Bulgarian Orthodox Metropolitan Nicodemus of Sliven conferred here with Patriarch Christopher on the possibility of effecting a closer relationship between the two churches. The Bulgarian is touring the Middle East as a representative of Metropolitan Kiril of Sofia, who was elected Patriarch of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in 1953. This action was branded as 'illegal' by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which has always, in modern times, maintained an Exarch in Bulgaria.

Enroute to Alexandria, Metropolitan Nicodemus called on Patriarch Athenagoras at his residence in Istanbul. The Metropolitan stated: he was confident that the Ecumenical Patriarch's recognition would 'not be delayed much longer.'

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Much has been written in recent days about the tragedies of the riots of last September 6th in Istanbul. Fortunately, better news lies ahead. The last units of Turkish Armed Forces have been withdrawn from around the Phanar (Seat of the Patriarchate); altho a training exercise was executed in early December, by the Armed Forces to signify readiness against any possible future trouble. During the exercise all Greek Churches in Istanbul were quickly shielded by motorized

troops in a rapid and efficient manner.

In connection with the riots, the five churchmen of the World Council of Churches at Geneva, made a trip to Istanbul and reported that the Turkish government has promised restitution. They also stated that the World Council will provide \$75,000 to aid the victims. Patriarch Athenagoras also announced, in connection with funds for relief, that he would sell his private limousine, a Mercedes-Benz, valued at \$3500. The limousine was given to him by Greek-Americans.

Prime Minister Adnan Menderes of Turkey met with a Greek Orthodox Delegation, of the Patriarchate, and expressed his deep sorrow and stated that the re-building of the churches and other institutions, destroyed or damaged, would be commenced in January at the very latest. He also stressed that the government was striving to 'secure equality of rights for every citizen.' In the delegation were the Metropolitans: Dorotheos of the Prince Islands, and Gennadios of Elioupolis.

In Cyprus, meanwhile, military law rules the land. British troops maintain a constant and vigilant search for hidden arms, ammunition and terrorists. The Ethnarchy Council of Cyprus, which has been promoting the demands of Cypriotes for reunion with Greece, has been in for heavy criticism. Canon Waddams, general secretary of the Anglican Council of Foreign Affairs in London, pointed out that the Ethnarchy Council is really a political rather than a Church body. Said he, 'It has no constitutional status whatever in relation to the Orthodox Church of Cyprus', even though Archbishop Macarius, of Cyprus, is its ex-officio head.

(Ed.- Such a Ethnarchy Council has been in existence in Cyprus ever since 1571, when the Turks conquered Cyprus.)

Raids have been carried out on Greek Monasteries in Cyprus, by British troops. Over twenty-four monasteries have been surrounded, and troops, accompanied by Army Chaplains, in most cases, have then entered and searched them from top to bottom. Just a few days after last Christmas, such a raid netted Gavriel Leonidas, one of the most wanted men in Cyprus. Few arms have been found, however.

(Ed.- And thus the strife continues)

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ATHENS - The Greek Orthodox weekly Zoe (Life) stated that Communist leaders in Rumania are continuing to 'openly and secretly persecute religion despite their peace-loving pretensions.'

According to reports, 13 Orthodox bishops and 650 priests are in prison, while clergymen, who are still at liberty, are forced to preach every Sunday on 'world peace' from a Communist viewpoint. Only one theological school is open, and it has only 30 students.

Churches, however, are filled to overflowing, especially with young men.

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HELSINKI - Archbishop Herman of Karelia, head of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Finland, stated the Synod had declared its spiritual allegiance to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He said also that the Synod had branded 'unlawful' the action of monks in two of the monasteries, who had declared themselves under the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate.

(Ed.- The great majority of Finnish Orthodox groups, totaling some 70,000, have been under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since 1923.)

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MOSCOW - Six American priests of the American branch of the Patriarchal Russian Church, visiting here for a three week period, paid their respects to the Patriarch; toured to Leningrad and Kiev, visiting Monasteries, Churches and other places of interest. They were the Fathers Dzvonchik, Havriliak, Gorechak, Kavalchuk, Abramzov, and Jugrikov.

While in Moscow, they expressed their amazement over the refusal of the U.S. State Dep't. to admit Archbishop Boris on a permanent visa as Exarch of the American branch of their Church, and indicated they planned to visit Ambassador C.E. Bohlen regarding the matter.

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN EGYPT

CAIRO - A Church and State battle loomed in Egypt as a new government law abolishing religious courts went into effect January 1st, 1956.

The law, which Christian leaders have protested, abandons a system of ecclesiastical courts in existence over 1300 years. Egypt is the first Arab state to abolish religious jurisdiction in personal status cases and replace it with civil courts.

The government's move was considered here to be a major step in a secularization policy similar to that launched by Kemal Ataturk in Turkey during 1923. Officially the law is described 'to further unify Egypt's legal system.'

The measure will reduce the influence of Moslem sheiks, as well as the 14 non-Moslem religious bodies in Egypt (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Jewish) in matters of divorce, marriage, succession, adoption and guardianship.

The government explained that the State must remain Sovereign for the good of all the people. Indications are that a proper practice will soon be introduced, as the Ministry of Justice is drafting legislation to give Egypt its first unified civil code.

The Church showed great antagonism to the measure, which became effective this year and objected so strenuously that some of their leaders (mainly Roman Catholic) found themselves confined to prison; altho subsequently released, some under bail.

As if to give more weight to their decision, the government also announced that all the private schools in Egypt, more than 2000 with some 500,000 students, will henceforth be under the control and inspection of the Ministry of Education. Standards will be set for hygiene, construction and type of equipment employed. In all schools, above primary, the further standard of instruction in Arabic will be enforced for all pupils.

(Ed. - The entire separation of Church and State, and opposition to every attempt to appropriate public monies, directly or indirectly, for the support of sectarian or private institutions, as well as absolute support of the laws of the land by such institutions is the cornerstone of pure democracy.)

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HAMBURG, Germany - The Supreme Court of Hamburg upheld the claim of German Churches to what is left of about 45,000 church bells scrapped by the Nazis for armanent purposes during the last War. It ruled that all bells and bell scrap have the character of sacred objects. It is estimated that nearly \$250,000 worth of bell scrap is in possession of various foundries. The Court ordered the foundries to compensate the Churches.

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LONDON - A nun planned to appeal to the Pope for damages suffered when her Mother Superior assaulted and imprisoned her. She belongs to the Order of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth at Hammersmith. She stated: 'I would never encourage anyone to enter a religious order. I made the wrong choice. I know now it is possible to offer one's life to God without entering an Order.'

OTTAWA, Canada - The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that all religious groups, including Jehovah's Witnesses, have absolute freedom of worship, freedom, assembly and conscience. The decision was brought about by a case wherein three Quebec police broke up a Jehovah's Witness meeting. The Court awarded damages of \$2000 and called the police action unlawful, illegal and criminal. The decision further stressed that no one religious group has the right to impose its will on a minority. The complainant had tried to take legal action in the Quebec Superior Court and Quebec Court of Appeals, but had been dismissed from both jurisdictions. Remarkd one of the Supreme Court Judges: 'It would be distressing to think that a majority might impose its religious views upon a minority....by denying to a minority the same rights which one rightly claims for oneself in another province...'

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CHURCH and STATE in the U.S.A.

AKRON, Ohio - Rev. Edward Sadvary of St. Marys Eastern Rite (Roman Catholic) Church stated he will register as a lobbyist with the state government and 'devote as much time as necessary to get bingo legalized for church groups in Ohio'.
(Ed.- ???)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senate sub-committee on constitutional rights, under the chairmanship of Senator T.C. Henning, is trying to arrive at a report on whether the administration's security program is violating constitutional rights. Quotations from citizen's constitution, Marriage Service tended to criticize action in those security cases where an arbitrary guilt - by-kinship was applied. (Ed.- This is another illustration of the great Holy Scriptures influence which th of the law and of the law-making processes.

CULVER, INDIANA - 'We're in the red, exclaimed Rev. Joseph Lenk, pastor of the new St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, when asked about the red front door on the Church.

'Until the mortgage is paid, red doors will remind church-goers of their obligation. After the last payment is made the door will be painted a green color'.

another illustration which has on the grow-

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - A suit commenced by a self-professed atheist, Frank C. Hughes of Mpls. Minn., to remove chaplains from the government payroll, was thrown out of court by Federal Judge E.A. Tamm, because Mr. Hughes failed to show that he, as an individual, was injured by the allegedly illegal act of the government. Mr. Hughes said he would appeal.

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WASHINGTON, D.D. - Metropolitan Anastassy, head of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, filed a petition with Senator Kilgore's subcommittee on immigration, for leniency towards immigrants who were forced to tell falsehoods about their name or national origin, by circumstances. 'None of us claims they have done the right thing', quoth the Metropolitan. (Ed.- Is it inconsistent for a prelate to take such a stand, when an Archbishop of his own jurisdiction was recently revealed in a N.Y. Court Decision to 'have been convicted of crime and been twice married'? - Of course, we all know 'doing the right thing' is a Christian virtue.)

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GATE CITY, Va. - Circuit Court Judge E.T. Carter ruled the property of Nickelsville Baptist Church belongs to the congregation that was originally instituted. A Rev. A.R. Fields had excommunicated most of the congregation when he came to the Church, and nearly 100 of these members had petitioned the Court for a ruling. Judge Carter held that the 'true' congregation comprises the members whose usage and customs in the church were originally in practice there. (Ed.- A similar ruling was held in a N.Y. decision, in which a Russian hierarch sought to oust the lawful members of the Bd. of Trustees by excommunication and thereby to try and seize the property. He was defeated.)

HEVILLE, N.C. - The N.C. Baptist Convention voted to reaffirm its traditional policy that a local church possesses autonomy and may leave its group at will. The Convention decided: 'it is a violation of the spirit of this constitution for the Convention to attempt any action that would interfere with any local church's right to act with reference to its present or future operation.'

- Democracy in action. - Of course, this action was prompted by a recent court decision that a minority could seize control of a church if it proved to be the group loyal to the greater body. The court decision naturally deprived a local church from exercising the right to leave a group of other churches, with which it might develop disagreements, even if a majority of the local membership desired this separation.)

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MIDEN, N.J. - It was reported in AREO columns in the last issue concerning Rev. L.D. Bozorth. He had been cited for contempt for writing a letter criticizing a court order regarding a referendum on legalizing liquor sales on Sundays from 4P.M. to midnight. In chancery proceedings, Judge Haneman ruled Rev. Bozorth was NOT guilty, because the letter had been published AFTER the decision was rendered. The Judge said further contempt action under these circumstances would represent 'censorship', and that 'no official, judicial or otherwise, is exempt from criticism. It is the inherent right of any citizen to criticize any official or his decision...subject, of course, to being held accountable for libel or slander.'


- A case based on a similar principle was decided similarly in N.Y. in 1953=Hill-Lyman)

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GLENDAL, CALIF. - A local Church posted on its bulletin board, this sign:

'Drive carefully - don't insist on your rites'

HERE and THERE in the CHRISTIAN CHURCH



BOSTON - Paul Revere was guided by a light from the Old Church Tower back in April 18, 1775, when the British were approaching. In August, 1954, Hurricane CAROL approached and toppled the old steeple over. Friendly American hands raised \$150,000 in six months and today the new structure, an exact reproduction of the original, again towers 67 feet in the air, with a 20 foot weathervane atop it. An historic American shrine.

(Ed.- May the beacon light of Freedom ever burn bright in America.)

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MNOLOGY in the CHURCH =

NEW YORK - The Hebrew Union College of the Jewish Institute of Religion was founded, in part, to 'insure the continuity of Jewish Sacred Music and to safeguard the role which the cantor has come to play in enriching the worship services...'

- It is well known that all Christian Liturgical Music and the Practice of the Art is based fundamentally on Jewish Sacred Music, notably the Psalms.)

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PHILADELPHIA, Pa. - Rev. Ginder of the Roman Catholic Church announced a new Roman Catholic Hymnal will soon be published and will contain many hymns now used only by the Protestants. He stated, among other things, - 'our first test of any hymn must be from orthodoxy....'

- The Seven Ecumenical Councils also agree with Rev. Ginder on this point.)

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CHICAGO - The famous American ballads: 'O Promise Me', 'Because', 'I Love You Truly'; and also the historic bridal marches of Wagner, Mendelssohn, along with the 'Ave Marias' of Schubert, Verdi, Mascagni, Bach-Gounod have been banned by Cardinal Stritch because they

are 'unliturgical' and 'unsuitable' because they do not meet the primary requisite of 'sanctity.'

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VATICAN CITY - Pope Pius XII, in an encyclical, dated Dec. 25th and entitled 'Discipline of Sacred Music', urged clergy and laity to return to the primitive Gregorian Chant. He also stressed the importance of the use of popular hymns by the people and exhorted Bishop everywhere to promote their use. He requested that all instruments of music be banished from the Churches, except the organs-violins-and stringed instruments.

(Ed. - The Gregorian Chant is the rhythmically free, unaccompanied singing of a single line of melody. It was named after Gregory I, 6th century Pope.)

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NEW YORK - Plans for the publication of a 'dictionary of American hymnology' were just announced by the Hymn Society of America. The group plans to bring into the book the story of hymnody in America, the writers of hymns and gospel songs, and the known facts about the hymns and music now used in American Churches. Various of the Protestant leaders will cooperate in the preparatory work.

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THE CHURCH and MARRIAGE =

NEW YORK - A special commission of the United Lutheran Church of America called for relaxing of the Church's strict opposition to divorce and re-marriage. Rev. Wm.C.Zimmerman, chairman, stated:

'Our new stand recognizes a more realistic view of marriage and divorce'. He also told of the growing divorce rate, now around 23 out of every 100 marriages. He added, 'Where marriage failure and divorce occur among Christian people, the Church should recognize being involved in the failure, and seek to lead all concerned to repentance and forgiveness' (Ed.- In the past, 'marriage and family life code', adopted in 1930, by the Church, was almost as strict as the Church of England, sanctioning re-marriage only to the innocent partner of a divorce, and then only if the divorce was based on adultery or desertion.)

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CLEARWATER, Fla. - The Greek custom of having two marriages, civil and church, was cited in an annulment suit filed here recently. The complainant said she had been married in civil marriage, after which both parties then returned to their respective homes, inasmuch as they considered this to be only an engagement or betrothal pledge; and that it was understood they would be married later in the Greek Church. She further said that no such marriage in the Church had ever occurred and that she desired an annulment.

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LIBERIA, Africa - It was reported recently that a man may now have more than one wife and still be in good standing in the Christian Church(Lutheran) here. (Ed.- Competition with Islam must be severe)

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MEXICO CITY - In the early 1900's, in the regime of President Alvaro Obregon, the government allowed sects,agricultural-migrate to Mexico to accomplish this,the them to keep the their tradition, It is interesting mons kept their which, of course,

JOHNSTOWN, PA. - Rev. Arthur Moffat of the Beulah Evangelical United Brethren Church commented informally on the poor prospects of the church's future, because, as he put it: 'No maternity patients had been visited in the last couple of months.'

Today, Rev. Moffat has changed his mind; within a week, seven babies were born and announcements made on others. Rev.Moffat murmured: 'The future looks very bright.'

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THE CHURCH and the BIBLE =

ATHENS, Greece - A new 662 page edition of the New Testament was issued here by the Orthodox Church. Under the Greek Constitution of 1948, translation of the Holy Scriptures into any Greek dialect without the approval of both the Orthodox Church of Greece and the Ecumenical Patriarchate is absolutely forbidden'. The Old Testament is anticipated being also re-published for the first time, in a new edition, since some 150 years ago. The University of Athens Theological School is directing the work of the new version.

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MOSCOW - The first new edition of the Russian Orthodox Bible since the Bolshevik revolution, will be published this month. It will have an initial printing of several hundred thousand copies. The edition has been prepared for publication by the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

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NEW YORK, N.J. - Teen-age members of a local church conducted a Bible-reading marathon that lasted 73 hours and 14 minutes. They finished the 773,692 words of the Old and New Testaments at 12:14 a.m., four days later. Thirty boys and thirty girls participated. The purpose of the Christmas time project was to try and stimulate 'sincerity and reverence' in the hope of 'impressing on the community the value of the Bible in our everyday life'.
Ed. - Eastern Orthodoxy derived its practice of its Daily Scripture Lessons from that of the Hebrews. The Hebrews read the Torah in a continuous series of lessons, thruout the year. Eastern Orthodoxy reads the New Testament in a similar fashion in their Liturgy (Epistle and Gospel lessons.)

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NEW YORK - A study of the New Testament, from a Jewish point of view, the first ever done by an American Jewish scholar, will be published soon. It will be entitled: 'A Jewish Understanding of the New Testament'. The writer, Dr. Samuel Sandmel, is an ordained rabbi and a professor of Bible and Hellenistic literature of the Cincinnati faculty of the Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion.

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CHICAGO, Ill. - Dr. H.W. Thompson of Macalester College of St. Paul, Minn. stated that modern scientific discoveries do not conflict with the Bible, but provide 'a corrective to be used in Biblical interpretation'. He urged: 'we should not only tolerate varying opinions but eagerly seek the light of God from the insights given to those with different backgrounds, pressures, and opportunities'. He further said: 'We must always act in humility, knowing we may be wrong. We cannot claim the endorsement of God for our schemes and programs as though we were commissioned to work them out and that God was pledged to underwrite them'.
Ed. - Infallibility is not a Christian doctrine; the study of Holy Scriptures is; toleration and willingness to hear other's views is not only a Christian virtue, but also the essence of a Free Society; the 'Light of God' is well known to be revealed continuous with advancing time; being 'wrong' is a common failing; admitting it is a Christian obligation. -
Dr. Thompson speaks with intelligence.)

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LATE NEWS FLASH =

JERUSALEM - Greek Orthodox Patriarch Timotheos Themelis, 77, is dead. A native of the Greek Isle of Samos, he came to Jerusalem in his youth as a member of the Holy Sepulchre Society and later attended its Holy Cross Theological School here. He studied an additional four years in England at Oxford University. He was appointed secretary of the Patriarchate in 1914, and three years later became Archbishop of Jordan, with Bethlehem as his Seat. He established 'New Zion', a theological quarterly, and wrote 15 books on theological matters. When he was elected Patriarch in 1935, it was with some difficulty as a nationalistic struggle, between Greek and Arab, over occupancy of the Seat, was, and still is, paramount. His death will revive this struggle and make selection of a successor very difficult.

EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN AMERICA =

Following the 9th Annual All-American Convention (Sobor) of the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Leonty gave an unrehearsed interview in which he stated that the Russian Church 'is taking the lead in projecting a united Eastern Orthodox Church, in which all national Orthodox Churches on this continent will eventually be involved.'

A spokesman of the public relations of the same Church later told this writer that this statement was intended as a personal remark of the Metropolitan, and was in no way to indicate that it had been a part of the agenda of the Sobor.

A spokesman for the Greek Archdiocese was asked concerning this proposed merger, and stated that the Greek Church had not been approached on the merger and therefore he could not comment further at this time.

Metropolitan Bashir, Syrian Orthodox, stated: 'We must unite or disappear.'

(Ed. - The movement for a merged Orthodox Church in America has been going on for some time. It was first projected under the leadership of Archbishop Aftimios Ofiesh, the predecessor of Metropolitan Bashir. Archbishop Aftimios is now retired and lives in Pa.)

EASTERN ORTHODOX YOUTH ACTIVITIES =

November, 1954 saw the formation of the Eastern Orthodox Youth Leaders (CEOYLA) in Pittsburgh, Pa. Composed of three representatives from each of six different national jurisdictions of Youth Movements (Greek, Russian, Rumanian, Serbian, Syrian, Ukrainian), it draws on a potential following of 500 Youth Chapters with about 25,000 total membership.

In its formal organizing, CEOYLA set forth a series of goals dealing primarily with the advancement of the Orthodox Church thru educational and other coordinated efforts for the good and welfare of the entire Church.

CEOYLA met the second time on June 3-4, 1955 in Canton, Ohio to set forth a temporary Constitution and By-laws and to initiate certain tangible projects:

i. A compilation of all Sunday School material in existence in Orthodox Churches at this time; and a distribution of a complete library of the same to all national Sunday School Headquarters of all cooperating bodies.

ii. Research on the needs of Orthodox chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces.

iii. Formation of Eastern Orthodox Fellowships on college and universities campuses.

iv. Status of the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem.

v. Compilation of an extensive directory of all Orthodox Churches in America.

The third meeting of CEOYLA was held in Detroit, Mich. over Thanksgiving weekend of Nov. 25-28, 1955. Discussion was held on the Constitution and By-laws, but any action was deferred until the Spring Meeting, May 19, 1956, to be held in Phila. Pa. (this action was deferred mainly because the National GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth) Conference, scheduled for last August in Boston, had been cancelled; it had been hoped much progress might have been gained at this Conference) Other minor steps were taken, however; among them being a vote of support to the GOYA sponsored pilgrimage to the Holy Land, scheduled for June 6, 1956.

(Ed. - It is hoped that future developments with this movement may bear fruit worthy of the Youth, who are devoting their energies towards it)

GENERAL EASTERN ORTHODOX NEWS THRUOUT AMERICA =

S. CANAAN, Pa. - The death of Bishop Jonah of the Russian Orthodox Church occurred recently. He was head of S. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan. His successor is to be appointed shortly by Metropolitan Leonty.

NEW YORK - Archbishop Arsenios Saltos, 64, exarch of the Patriarchate of Alexandria died December 14th. His Cathedral Church of St. John Baptist was located here. He was born in Ivali, Turkey (then a part of Greece). He had been ordained a priest over forty years ago and was consecrated a Bishop in 1936. Archbishop Dionysios, head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in America, officiated at the rites.

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NEW YORK - Princess Ileana of Rumania presented an ancient icon to St. John the Divine Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Church. She gave it in memory of 'King Ferdinand and the Queen Marie and all those who have served Rumania by heroic lives or martyrs deaths.' Bishop Donegan dedicated the icon on behalf of the Episcopal Church.

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JERSEY CITY - The cornerstone of the new Evangelismos Greek Orthodox Church, 661 Montgomery Street, was laid and the Church dedicated by Archbishop Michael, Rev. Peter Raptellis, pastor, officiating. The building is a replica of St. Sophia, which was built in the 6th century and still exists today as the chief mosque in Istanbul.

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QUEENS, L.I. N.Y. - Ground breaking ceremonies were held for the new Greek Church at 98th St. and 38th Ave. Participants included Archbishop Michael and Borough President James A. Lundy.

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NEW YORK - A Greek language Contest is being conducted in conjunction with the Archdiocese National Week of Greek Culture and Greek Press, January 23-31st, 1956. Contest headquarters are at 10 E. 79th St., N.Y. (Greek Archdiocese). A National Junior Olympians & Olympiads Youth Photography Contest is also being conducted. Details on both may be procured from the above address.

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HAMMOND, Indiana - Bishop John of the Russian Orthodox Church was a guest of Rev. Fr. Julia at St. Nicholas Church here, where he officiated Dec. 11th. The Bishop then went to Kenosha, Wis. to preside at Sunday Services on Dec. 18th at the Russian Church there. He also later officiated at St. Peter & Paul in Chicago, and at St. Mary's in Gary, Indiana, before going to the Council of Bishops meeting in Detroit, which is presided over by the Metropolitan, Leonty.

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NEW YORK - The Orthodox Christian Fellowship of Columbia University, in December, presented Dr. Vladimir Ussachevsky as a speaker on 'Russian Church Music'. They also gave their Sixth Annual Christmas Concert, with Orthodox Choirs participating.

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NEW YORK - Novoye Russkoye Slovo, a Russian newspaper here, detailed briefly of the trial and decision of the Synod of Bishops (Anastassy jurisdiction) of one of their Archbishops. The December 8th, 1955 issue of the paper spoke of a decision being rendered against one Archbishop Jacob (James Toombs). According to the paper, he was 'Freed from further duties.' It is now expected the Archbishop will 'resign'.

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NEW YORK - Bishop Bohdan, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America, under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch, ordained a new deacon for the Church of St. Mary in S. Plainfield, N.J. The new deacon will assist the V. Rev. Walter Propheta, who is Chancellor of the Ukrainian Church.

(Ed.- Bishop Bohdan has several Spanish-language churches also in his jurisdiction. It is believed that this is the first time in Orthodox history that Spanish-language services have been conducted according to Orthodox tradition and ritual.)

TARPON SPRINGS, Fla. - Epiphany Day Celebrations were observed here, with Arch-bishop Michael as the Officiant, assisted by the able pastor of the local St. Nicholas Church the Rev. Father Constantine Raptis. His Eminence, Michael, is well-known in Tarpon Springs where he has formerly officiated....altho not for some years. The last time he was here, when Archbishop Athenagoras went to Athens to assume the duties of the Patriarchate, who is in Istanbul.

A new cornerstone was also laid in a Tampa ceremony, where the local Community has been without a Church or Priest of their own for some time.

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BUFFALO, N.Y. - A Polish National Catholic Bishop has taken part in ordination ceremonies for a priest of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski assisted Bishop of Buffalo, Lauriston Scaife.

(Ed.- It is interesting, indeed, to note in connection with this inter-church affair, of another incident some years back of a similar happening involving the Orthodox Church. December 1955 saw the death of Rev. John W. Torok, 65, in Great River, L.I., N.Y. He had served there for years as an Episcopal clergyman. Originally, he was born in Hungary and was ordained as a Uniat priest (Roman Catholic). He later became a priest of the Episcopal Church, here in America. In 1924, he was elected as a Bishop of an Orthodox rite of the same Church. Altho this was never accepted by the House of Bishops, he was consecrated in a ceremony in which a Serbian Bishop participated.)

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SEMINARY ACTIVITIES =

NEW YORK - Rev. Florovsky, five years the Dean of St. Vladimir Seminary (Leonty jurisdiction) at Union Theological Seminary, has been given 'leave of absence' due to some internal disagreements, according to a spokesman of the Seminary. His successor, as the Acting-dean, is Serge Verkhovsky, who is at present on a one months lecture trip to the Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the immediate absence of the new Dean, Rev. Alexander Schmemmann is acting head. Rev. Florovsky, however, is still retained on the roster of Holy Cross Greek Seminary at Brookline, Mass. He also teaches a course in Orthodox Tradition at Union Theological Seminary (A Protestant Seminary).

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BROOKLINE, Mass. - Holy Cross Theological Seminary has adopted a ruling requiring seminarians to complete seven years of study for ordination to the priesthood. Bishop Athenagoras of Elaea, Dean, said the measures were adopted to raise the scholastic standards. Holy Cross Seminary was originally founded at Pomfret, Conn. in 1937 by the present Archbishop Athenagoras (Kavadas) of Thyateira, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Western and Central Europe. He founded it when he was an archimandrite. The Seminary was moved to Brookline in 1942 and now has 102 students from many nationalities, representing Russian, Ukrainian, Albanian, Syrian and Greek Orthodox.

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(Ed. - When the day finally comes that all the Orthodox Churches in U.S.A. understand the need for a truly American Church - American in spirit, in language, in usage, in custom, in tradition, in thought, in understanding, and in loyalty to American principles - then, and then only will be born, not only an American Seminary and Theological School, but also a great native American Orthodox Church, replete with its own music and knowledge. This will be the Day.)

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - A young minister, Rev. Wm. R. Hill, of Trinity Episcopal Church, literally went heavenward to place a cross atop the new steeple. The former Air Force pilot, wearing his clerical collar, sat in a wooden seat and was wafted skyward with the aid of a derrick. In mid-air, he seized a second line and lifted the aluminum cross aloft and placed it in position on the steeple. He wiped, calmly, with a handkerchief, the seven foot cross and descended. He later remarked: 'That's one thing they didn't teach me at the seminary.'

ANTIQUITIES

NEW YORK - An ancient manuscript, written in Aramaic, of the New Testament, known as the Yonan Codex (named after the family which owns it) has stirred up considerable controversy.

The Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, at its 75th anniversary meeting here, rejected claims as to the age, importance and value of the Yonan Codex.

The Aramaic Bible Foundation (Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation) is sponsoring a tour of the country, with the manuscript in a bus christened the 'Spirit of Galilee.' In November it had been given a send-off by Vice-President Nixon at a Washington ceremony. Later, the Codex was used for the administering of the Oath of Office to the new governor of Kentucky, 'Happy' Chandler, in Frankfort. The Foundation is trying to raise between \$300,000 and \$1,500,000 to purchase the manuscript as a gift to the Library of Congress. Publicity statements have characterized the manuscript as 'Christendom's most precious document.'

The Society of Biblical Literature stated the manuscript was an authentic 7th or 8th century copy of the Syriac Peshitta, a version made from the Greek New Testament about 400 A.D.; and that it definitely was not the oldest or most valuable of Christian documents, but, in fact, it was worth approximately \$5,000.

Dr. F.C. Grant, Professor of New Testament at Union Theological Seminary, deviating from the immediate subject, stated about Biblical scholarship, that: Free Scholarship was in danger from 'authoritarian' dictates.....and that 'in my opinion, the outlook for free biblical scholarship has not been darker since the beginning of this century.' He further made mention of the fact that he had written an article for a world-famous encyclopedia a few years back and that it had not yet been published. He had been told that the editorial committee could not agree upon articles which 'a powerful pressure group described as controversial.'

1. - There are at least two Old Syrian manuscripts, pre-dating the Yonan Codex: they are known as the Curetonian and the Lewis, translated from the Greek about 170 A.D.

It is well known that many improperly recommended manuscripts, including many outright forgeries have been perpetrated on Christianity thruout the centuries; two of the most famous being the 'Donation of Constantine' and the 'False decretals of Isidore', which are proven forgeries.

'Free Scholarship' can alone ascertain the value of anything, no matter what field it may be in.)

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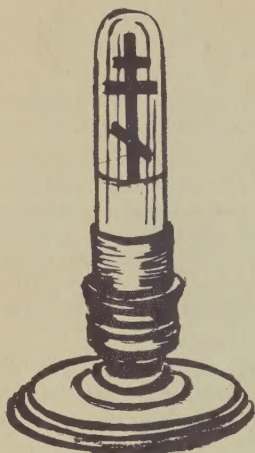
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